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NEWS RELEASE

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FORMER TUCOEMAS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION EMPLOYEE INDICTED

FRESNO-- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a one count indictment charging TAMARA NAVARRETTE, 27, Visalia, California with embezzlement from a credit union.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation conducted by the Fresno Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Laurel J. Montoya, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that NAVARRETTE, an employee of the Tucoemas Federal Credit Union, embezzled in excess of \$48,000.00. The embezzlement is alleged to have occurred prior to April 2005 while NAVARRETTE was a Membership Representative in the Tucoemas Credit Union Whitendale and Cypress branches. The members whose accounts were fraudulently accessed by NAVARRETTE ranged in age from 65 to 97 years.

The maximum statutory penalty for a violation of credit union embezzlement is up to 30 years in prison and a \$1,000,000 fine. However, the actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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